

1 July 1983

Office of Personnel Checklist

Social Security Coverage

We were finally able to meet with Rob Simmons, SSCI Staff Director, to follow up on our earlier meeting with him and other Staff Members on the matter of Social Security coverage for new hires. After the earlier meeting, he had promised to come back to us with a reaction to our proposal.

Mr. Simmons started off the discussion by indicating that he had set up a task force of Staff Members to review the Agency's concerns about Social Security coverage and our proposal. The results of that review were:

a. The group concluded that it could not muster Committee support to exempt the Agency from Social Security coverage for new hires. Further, there was little, if any, sentiment for the proposed two-tier single CIA system. While there was always support for addressing the needs of the Clandestine Service, some of the Senators would have difficulty distinguishing DDA, DDS&T, and DDI officers from employees elsewhere in government. Overall, it was the view of the study group that there was little chance of securing enactment of our proposal.

b. We then mentioned that we had reached essentially the same conclusion and discussed our assessment of chances of getting our proposal enacted. We then made the point that we needed the fullest support for a special supplemental system that would resolve Agency concerns.

Mr. Simmons said he agreed completely with our own assessment and the wisdom of withdrawing our earlier proposal and thought also that the supplemental system approach was the way to go. We alerted him to the possibility that a system that would meet our needs could be expensive but that we would not know what was involved until we designed a system and had it reviewed by an actuary.

c. We asked if he knew whether there was any effort underway in the Congress or from the Administration on a supplemental system for new federal employees. He did not know but promised to look into this for us. He speculated, however, that there was not enough time this year to even schedule hearings on such a complicated matter and he doubted very much that anything of this type would occur before next year.

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Mr. Simmons was attentive and responsive and we believe that he will support our effort for a special supplemental system. He also agreed fully with us that the Agency should not have to carry the burden of a Community approach to this problem and that he would support an effort solely on the basis of CIA's needs and concerns.

Since we have time, our plan now is to start working on developing a supplemental system that would fully meet our needs as well as some fallback plans in the event the ideal system is too costly or would not be supported.